

12.00 hrs.

Thirdly, there is another very important question. The Planning Commission had set up a working group on iron and steel and it has projected a very ambitious plan during the Ninth Five Year Plan. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the steel industry is projected to invest Rs. 52,498 crore—Rs. 20,005 crore in the public sector and Rs. 32,493 crore in the private sector. The Steel Authority of India Limited alone is going to invest Rs. 15,000 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wanted to call out the name of Shri Rudy. But I am sorry, time is not there.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Privatisation of Communication Sector

*564. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken final decision regarding participation of private sector in the communication sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b)

Telecommunication Sector

Government have taken the following decisions in regard to private participation in the Telecom Sector:-

(i) With the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July, 1991, the entire Telecom Manufacturing Sector has been opened up for private participation.

(ii) Private participation has been permitted in Value Added Telecom Services since July, 1992. With the announcement of National Telecom Policy in 1994, private investment in Basic Telecom Services has also been permitted.

Postal Sector

Participation of the private sector in the postal services has been only marginal and that also in the role of augmenting the efforts of the Department of Posts. Private agencies have been participating in identified area of activity like sale of stamps and stationery, transportation of mails and provision of additional public facilities at a few places like—post shop. However, with the exception of these limited areas, it is not at present envisaged to involve private operators as an organised sector in the activities of the Department of Posts, both in terms of the extant

policy of the Government in the postal sector and from the point of view of fulfilling the inherent social purpose of postal services.

(c) Does not arise in view of the above.

Financial Assistance For Development of Tourism

*565. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the states Governments have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for development of projects relating to tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to each State for the purpose during the above period; and

(c) the criteria fixed by the Union Government for extending financial assistance for development of projects relating to tourism in the States?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) Central Financial Assistance is extended to specific tourism projects submitted by the State/Union Territory Governments. Each scheme has its own criteria. Generally projects are sanctioned, based on their merits, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The Central Financial Assistance sanctioned to each of the State/Union Territory Governments during the Eighth Plan period is as given below:

S.No.	State/U.T.	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	436.63
2.	Assam	437.34
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	156.28
4.	Bihar	376.88
5.	Goa	598.96
6.	Gujarat	190.58
7.	Haryana	723.19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1615.21
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	826.75
10.	Karnataka	1178.31
11.	Kerala	1014.87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	80.81
13.	Maharashtra	1065.40
14.	Manipur	243.45
15.	Meghalaya	110.36